

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a1
[01] This case is related to U.S. Application Serial No. 10/036,653
(Attorney Docket No. 20375-001800), entitled "Mail Handling Equipment and Methods,"
filed contemporaneously herewith on November 8, 2001, and assigned to the assignee
of the present invention, the complete disclosure of which is incorporated herein by
reference.

a2
Please replace paragraph [27], line 2, on page 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

[27] ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A depicts a portion of an insert grasping mechanism according to the
present invention;

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [27] on page 5 that ends on line
3:

a3
--Fig. 5B is a bottom view of an air direction device according to the present invention;--

Please replace paragraph [42], line 28, on page 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

a4
[42] Insert bins 128 contain inserts, such as paper advertisements and informational
inserts. These inserts may be added to a particular customer's stack of documents and
card passing beneath on belt 130. Inserts contained within bins 128 may be selectively
chosen based upon a number of criteria, including customer interest and other factors.
For the system 100 shown in Fig. 1 having three bins 128, some customers may receive
all three inserts, other customers may receive less than three inserts, while still other
customers may receive no inserts. Additional details on insert bins 128, and methods and
apparatus for selecting inserts, are found discussed in conjunction with Figs. 4 ~~and 5~~ and
5A-5B, respectively.

Please replace paragraph [56], line 10, on page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

AS
[56] Inserts from bin 400 are grasped by a grasping mechanism 500 as shown in ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A. In one embodiment, each bin 400 has a corresponding grasping mechanism 500. Mechanism 500 includes a grasping device or grasper 510 which translates, swings or otherwise moves from left to right as shown in ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A. In one embodiment, grasper 510 includes a piston 512 and a spring 514, and swings about a hinge point 516. Grasper 510 moves to up and to the right in ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A in order to grasp an insert received from bin 400. In one embodiment, suction devices 440 and/or rollers (not shown) in bin 400 draw the lower-most insert at least partially through slot 450, where it can be grasped by grasper 510. Grasper then moves down and to the left in ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A to position the insert on top of the statement or card carrier passing below on belt 130. The insert grasped by grasper 510 contacts a deflector 520, which helps remove the insert from grasper 510. In one embodiment, deflector 520 includes a pair of arms between which grasper 510 translates or swings. As a result, the insert is released and placed on the underlying documents, which may include a previously deposited insert.

Please replace paragraph [58], line 28, on page 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

AL
[58] In one embodiment of the present invention, an air direction device 530 is positioned near deflector 520, and in a particular embodiment is coupled to deflector 520. Air direction device 530 has an opening (~~not shown~~) 535 (See Fig. 5B), which in one embodiment is an elongate slit. The device opening is configured to direct a stream of air towards the previously grasped insert. Air direction device 530 directs the air in a downward direction for the embodiment shown in ~~Fig. 5~~ Fig. 5A. Further, while described in one embodiment as a device for directing air, other fluids or gases also may be used within the scope of the present invention. In one embodiment, direction device 530 is coupled to a fluid source, which in one embodiment is an air source.

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Amendment dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2003
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to original Fig. 5. The attached drawing sheet replaces the original sheet and adds Fig. 5B.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet